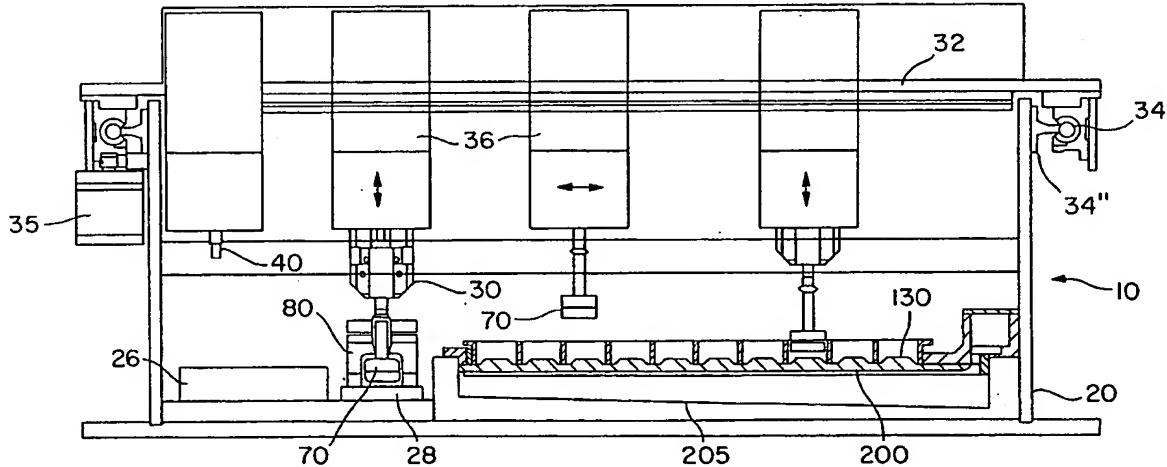




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(54) Title: AUTOMATED STAINING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

An automated microscope slide staining apparatus has a movable arm (30) which carries a wash/blow head (70) having an elongate dispensing slit for supplying wash liquid or drying air across the width of the slides (130) positioned in a heater block (200). In use, water is supplied over the surface to be treated by the wash/blow head (70) and reagents are supplied in a pattern that would not completely cover the surface to be treated and allowed to diffuse through the water to disperse.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/11090

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :B01L 11/00

US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 73/864.01; 118/300; 422/63, 65, 67, 99, 100; 424/3; 427/4; 436/46, 54, 63, 174, 180

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 4,224,277 (MACHO ET AL) 23 September 1980.	1-30
A	US, A, 5,009,185 (STOKES ET AL) 23 April 1991.	1-30
A	US, A, 5,231,029 (WOOTTON ET AL) 27 July 1993.	1-30
A	US, A, 4,305,722 (KUNZ) 15 December 1981.	25-30
A	US, A, 5,225,325 (MILLER ET AL) 06 July 1993.	25-30
X	US, A, 4,042,999 (TRIANTAFYLLOU) 23 August 1977, see figure 9.	31-33

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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I. National application No.
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FISHER SCIENTIFIC CATALOG, published 1988, pages 168-169, see "Flame Spreaders" and "Burner Wing Top for Glass Bending".	31-33

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73/864.01; 118/300; 422/63, 65, 67, 99, 100; 424/3; 427/4; 436/46, 54, 63, 174, 180